



SEDA-COG JOINT RAIL AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 9, 2025
Union County Government Center, Lewisburg, PA
12:30 p.m.

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT

Frank Dombroski, Montour County
Russ Graham, Centre County
John Gummo, Clinton County
Scott Harvey, Lycoming County
Lisa Hoover, Northumberland County
Robert Hormell, Northumberland County
Rick Jenkins, Columbia County (via teleconference)
Brent Jones, Clinton County
Michael Krentzman, Mifflin County
Rick Maloyed, Snyder County
Keri Miller, Centre County
Dave Park, Snyder County
Patty Perez, Columbia County
Rob Postal, Mifflin County
David Schultz, Lycoming County
Jennifer Wakeman, Montour County
Eric Winslow, Union County (via teleconference)

JRA OPERATOR

Jeb Stotter, President & CEO

GUESTS

John Ashbridge, Carload Express
Sam Simon, Esq., Carload Express Legal Counsel (via teleconference)
Kim Wheeler, SEDA-COG

JRA LEGAL COUNSEL

Jenn Bauer, Esq., McQuaide Blasko
John Bee, Esq., McQuaide Blasko
Tom Schrack, Esq., McQuaide Blasko

JRA CONSULTING PROFESSIONALS

Jason Shura, PE, Stiffler McGraw (via teleconference)

JRA STAFF

Steven Beattie, Executive Director
Tina Heintzelman, Program Assistant
Kyle Postupack, Property & Maintenance of Way Manager

Call to Order

SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Meeting
April 9, 2025

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 12:38 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome – Chairman’s Statements

The Chairman stated that the use of audio or video recording devices at the public meeting is permitted. The Authority does not require pre-registration for recording purposes; however, any individual intending to record all or any part of the meeting must notify the Chairman or the Executive Director in advance of such recording. If the Authority recesses to Executive Session, no recording of that session shall be permitted.

Public Forum

The Chairman asked if there is any public comment to come before the Board. There were no public comments.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Approval of the March 12, 2025, JRA Meeting Minutes

Mr. Postal made a motion for the Board to approve the March 12, 2025, SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Meeting Minutes; Ms. Perez seconded the motion; motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report

Ms. Wakeman presented the Treasurer’s Report for March, as well as the JRA’s Loan Summary, Money Market Account Financial Statement, the PIB Loan Financial Statement and the JRA’s detailed accounting associated with the operating fees paid by the Operator.

Ms. Miller made a motion for the Board to accept the Treasurer’s Report for the month of March 2025; Mr. Graham seconded the motion; motion carried.

Payment of the Bills; March 1, 2025, to March 31, 2025

Ms. Wakeman said the March Payment of Bills for the April check run totals \$703,106.68.

Ms. Wakeman made a motion for the Board to approve the April check run for the March 2025 Payment of Bills; Mr. Park seconded the motion; motion carried.

Staff Report and Events Calendar

SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Meeting
April 9, 2025

Mr. Beattie summarized the status of various construction projects and calendar highlights.

Mr. Postupack showed pictures he received from Brent Jones of the Clinton County Historical Society Dedication of Restored Caboose, NYC 17909, at the Castanea Train Station. Mr. Gummo thanked board members for their contributions to the project.

Operator Status Report

A copy of the Operator's Report was provided to Board members via email and copies were provided to Board members at the meeting. He said additional equipment was purchased for the passenger excursions and they are working on all safety protocols for excursion volunteers. The written protocols are almost complete, and a safety video will be created for the sponsors.

OLD BUSINESS

Bridge Engineer's Report

Mr. Shura reviewed the Bridge Engineer's Report provided in the meeting packet.

- Bridge safety inspections continue on the JRA system. Field inspection on the Nittany Bald Eagle Railroad is complete. The final report should be ready for final review in the next couple of weeks. Field inspection on the Lycoming Valley Railroad began April 1. There were no critical items found. Inspection reports are on schedule.
- Construction on the NBER Bridge 30.94 is ongoing. Installation of the box culvert, scheduled for this weekend, is postponed due to weather and is now scheduled for Thursday, April 24 through Monday, April 28.
- A progress meeting for the Selinsgrove Industrial Track grade crossing replacement project will take place in the next two weeks, with construction tentatively set to begin in June.
- No bids were received for the 2024 RTAP JVRR Rehabilitation Project. Some modifications to the project will be made before rebidding.
- Plans for the NBER Bridge 16.10 and 10.98 projects are complete and will be submitted pending quality assurance review.
- Field survey and wetland delineation are complete for NBER Bridge 33.65 and 33.05 on the Bellefonte branch and plan design has begun.
- Diagnostics field view for the CRISI grant application was held on March 25. Preparation of the preliminary report is approximately 50% complete.

In regard to no bids being submitted for the JVRR bridge project, Mr. Graham asked if there is a minimum number of bidders required. Mr. Shura said the Bureau prefers to see three bidders but if advertisement requirements have been met, only one is needed.

SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Meeting

April 9, 2025

Mr. Krentzman asked why there were no bidders. Mr. Shura said he was told one bidder simply forgot, one was in the process of changing surety and did not get their bid bond in time, another was interested but wasn't sure they could complete the project on time due to their current workload and another was a little nervous about some of the work involved.

Mr. Harvey asked if Mr. Shura was concerned about the timeline of the NBER Bridge 30.94 project with the two-week delay. Mr. Shura said he was not and that he agreed with the decision to delay the culvert installation. He also said there are liquidated damages in the contract if the contractor can't complete the project on time.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of LOA with Operator for Growing Greener SIT Embankment Repair Project

Operator proposes a Letter of Agreement for the reimbursement of a \$105,000 contribution made toward JRA's Growing Greener SIT Embankment Repair Project. The agreement defines a proportionate refund back to the Operator on a per diem amortization schedule of 3,650 days starting on the date of project substantial completion.

Mr. Graham made a motion for the Board to approve execution of Letter of Agreement between SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority and Susquehanna Union Railroad Company for the Growing Greener SIT Embankment Repair Project; Mr. Schultz seconded the motion; motion carried.

Approval of LOA with Operator for JVRR RTAP 2024 Bridge Rehabilitation Project

The Operator proposes a Letter of Agreement for the reimbursement of a \$331,025 contribution made toward JRA's RTAP 24 JVRR Bridge Bundle capital project. The agreement defines a proportionate refund back to the Operator on a per diem amortization schedule of 3,650 days starting on the date of project substantial completion.

Mr. Krentzman made a motion for the Board to approve execution of Letter of Agreement between SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority and Susquehanna Union Railroad Company for the JVRR RTAP 2024 Bridge Rehabilitation Project; Mr. Gummo seconded the motion; motion carried.

Approval of Contract 2025-03 for Public Bid; SIT Bank Stabilization Project

This project includes stabilization of an eroded embankment along the north side of the Selinsgrove Industrial Track near Milepost 2.2 and adjacent to Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove. The probable construction cost is opined at \$345,000. JRA was awarded \$90,000 in Growing Greener funding. The project will be bid upon approval to bid from PA DEP. The hope is the contract will be awarded at the June meeting.

Mr. Gummo made a motion to approve the public bidding for Contract 2025-03, SIT Bank Stabilization Project upon concurrence from PA DEP; Mr. Jones seconded the motion; motion carried.

Place Contract 2025-01 for Public Re-Bid; JVRR Bridge Preservation Project

Due to receiving no bids, a re-bid is necessary. The project is the first contract for the RTAP 24 Bridge Bundle Project. The project bid includes three bridges on the Maitland Branch: MP 0.46 (over Juniata River), MP 1.51 (over Kish Creek), MP 4.53 (over Jack's Creek) and one bridge on the Burnham Branch MP 3.25 (over Kish Creek). The probable construction cost is opined at \$1,558,371.76.

Mr. Krentzman made a motion to approve the public re-bidding for Contract 2025-01, JVRR Bridge Preservation Project; Ms. Miller seconded the motion; motion carried.

Ratify DCED Multi-modal Transportation Fund Grant Amendment

This amendment to the DCED Multi-modal Transportation Fund Grant agreement converts the grant from a construction grant with a 10% engineering allowance to 100% engineering allowance. By making this change, an estimated additional \$75,000 will be reimbursed to the JRA. The amendment was executed by the Board officers to minimize delays for reimbursement requests.

Ms. Perez made a motion to ratify approval of the PA DCED grant amendment by Board Officers; Ms. Wakeman seconded the motion; motion carried.

Revised RACP Cooperation Agreement with Button Holdings; Second Amendment

JRA approved a cooperation agreement with Button Holdings in August 2022 for submission of a RACP application to the state. This second amendment adds a new section to the grant agreement stating Button exists as multiple separate entities, includes Button Holdings, Inc., d/b/a Button Oil & Propane Company and Button Oil Company Inc., d/b/a Button Oil and Propane Company. Button's facility has been open for 2½ years and they are still working through the process with the JRA and state for funding reimbursement. This should be the final step to make the reimbursement to Button Holdings.

Mr. Krentzman made a motion to authorize the execution of the second amendment to the Cooperation Agreement with Button Holdings; Ms. Wakeman seconded the motion; motion carried.

Change Order No. 1 for Fabric Structure Repairs; Contract 2024-05

Contract 2024-05 is the Newberry Yard Fabric Structure Repair Project. The original contract price was \$142,783. A contract increase of \$300 is necessary due to labor and equipment costs to remove vent framing on the east end of the building that was not part of the original scope of work in the bid. The change order will increase the Contract Amount to \$143,083. The Executive Director approved this change due to the immediate need to complete the work. This change order also provides 21 additional calendar days to complete the work. This time extension was necessitated due to the extreme winter weather and the slow melting of excessive snow and ice on the north side of the building which hampered the work.

Mr. Hormell made a motion to ratify approval of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 2024-05 in the amount of \$300 and to add 21 calendar days to the contract to ClearSpan Fabric Structures International Inc.; Mr. Dombroski seconded the motion; motion carried.

Ratify SVRR Section 130 Grade Crossing Corridor Agreement Amendment

Majority of the work on the Section 130 signal upgrade project on the SVRR was done last year. There are still three crossings that need to be installed under a future amendment: Bottle Drive, Johns Estate Road and Short Road. This amendment increases the estimated cost of the services from \$4,645,000 to \$5,093,691.08 and allows PennDOT to reimburse the JRA so it can reimburse Diamondback Signals for work already completed.

Ms. Perez made a motion to approve Letter of Amendment No. 1 to the SVRR Section 130 Grade Crossing Corridor Agreement; Ms. Miller seconded the motion; motion carried.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Passenger Excursion Committee

1a. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding for Downtown Bloomsburg Inc. Passenger Rail Excursion

Downtown Bloomsburg Inc. has requested the following dates for its 2025 excursions: Oct. 18, Nov. 29, 30. The MOU is between the Sponsor Organization, the Excursion Operator and the JRA.

Mr. Graham made a motion for the Board to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Downtown Bloomsburg Inc. and authorize its execution by JRA officers; Mr. Park seconded the motion; motion carried.

1c. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding for Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce Passenger Rail Excursion

Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce has requested the following dates for its 2025 excursions: Dec. 13, 14, 20, 21. The MOU is between the Sponsor Organization, the Excursion Operator and the JRA.

Mr. Gummo made a motion for the Board to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce and authorize its execution by JRA officers; Mr. Jones seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. Beattie said after discussions with the Operator it was agreed that the status quo will be maintained for this year with the intention of expanding in 2026 to possibly bring on more nonprofit organizations.

Property Management Committee

2a. FastBridge Fiber LLC – License Agreement (NSHR – Bloomsburg – Iron Street)

FastBridge Fiber contacted JRA staff about constructing an overhead 1.25" innerduct with 10M strand and fiber optic cable no less than 25'-3" from top of rail with sag over the NSHR at the Iron Street Grade Crossing, Bloomsburg, Columbia County. Per the JRA Fee Schedule, FastBridge will be assessed a one-time \$500 application review fee for this wire, which is within the public right of way. All plans have been reviewed and approved.

Mr. Park made a motion for the Board to approve the license agreement with FastBridge Fiber LLC; Ms. Perez seconded the motion; motion carried.

SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Meeting
April 9, 2025

LEGAL

Solicitor Schrack stated he had nothing further to discuss in public session and recommended the Board recess into executive session.

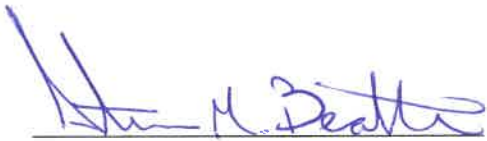
Chairman Harvey recessed the regular meeting at 1:28 p.m. to convene into executive session at 1:35 p.m.

Chairman Harvey reconvened the regular meeting at 1:56 p.m.

Solicitor Schrack stated that the JRA Board held an executive session to discuss litigation, Office of Open Records appeal, personnel and property matters. No action was taken in executive session, and no action is recommended to be taken at this time.

With there being no further business to come before the JRA Board, Chairman Harvey adjourned the meeting at 1:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven M. Beattie, Executive Director

I hereby certify these minutes were approved by the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Board of Directors on June 11, 2025.


Secretary/Assistant Secretary